

# MAXIMUM PRESERVATION

*Number Three*



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another  
dc punk archive  
and  
memory lab  
joint

*DC Public Library*  
*2018*

## Your Home Movies

are important historical materials  
-they document the traditions,  
values, and landscapes of a  
place and its people. The  
following are some simple tips to  
help save your home movies for  
future generations  
to enjoy!



# V I D E O

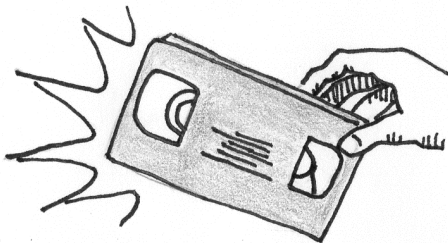
## TYPICAL HOME

### *Video*

VHS/VHS-C

MiniDV

Hi8/Digital8

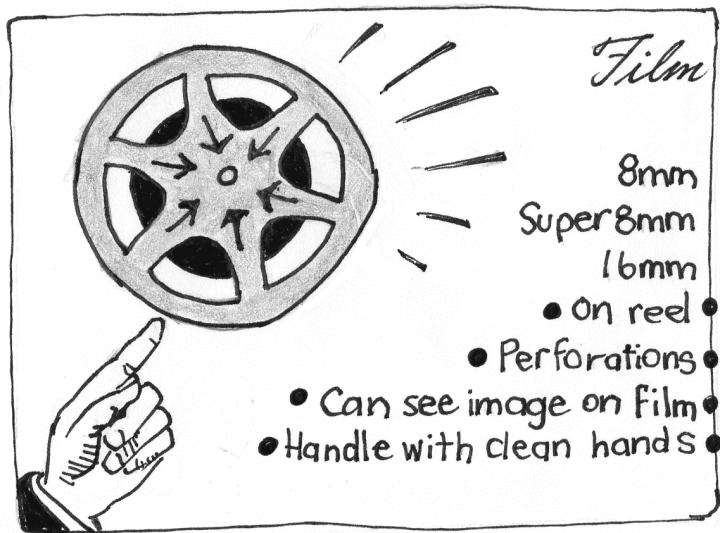


- Plastic cassettes •
- Black tape inside •
- Can't see images (don't touch) •
- Shorter shelf life than film, DIGITIZE FIRST! •





## MOVIE FORMATS:



# DAMAGE

IDENTIFYING DEGRADATION AND  
SAFELY WATCHING FILM + VIDEO

## FILM

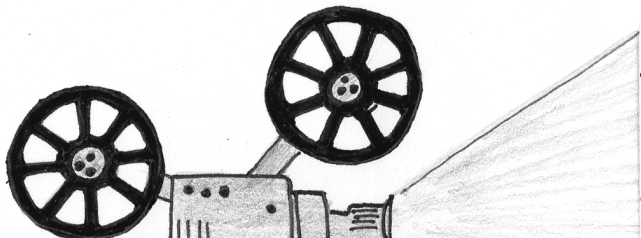
Decayed film has a vinegary odor. Store stinky film separately, and digitize first.

## VIDEO

Decayed video makes screeching noises in VCR or shows "snow" in image.

## FILM AND VIDEO

Mold and bad storage can damage both.



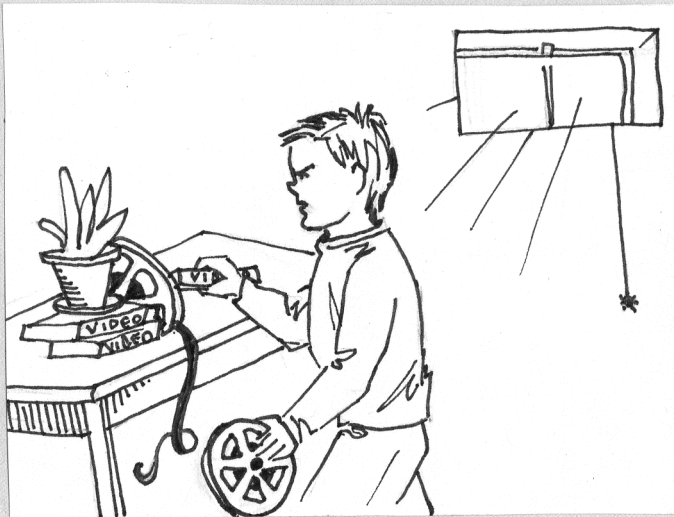
Projecting your films and playing your videos can damage them. Safer ways to view your films:

- Take your home movies to a HomeMovie Day event.
- Digitize your own home movies at a nearby Memory Lab.
- contact a local library or archive for advice
- Pay a professional company to digitize but get the originals back!



# PROPER

# STORAGE



Goofus stores his home movies in the basement or the attic in high humidity and direct sunlight. He stores them inside plastic bags, with rubber bands and paper. He also stacks too much weight on his movies!

*Avoid damage with proper storage!*

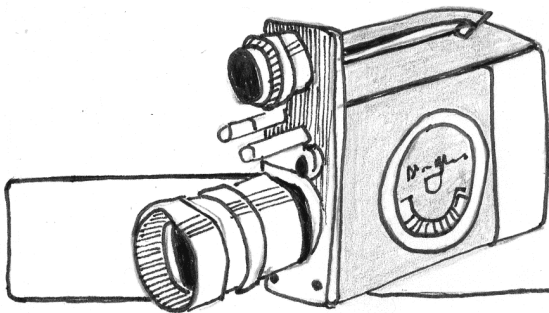


Gallant stores his home movies in a cool, dry environment, ideally off the floor. Gallant uses containers that allow them to “breathe”: vented cans for film and archival boxes for video. His films are stored flat, and videos vertically!

# D I G I T

Benefits to creating digital files:

- Watching the digital files won't damage the film.
- You can make multiple copies and share without loss of quality.
- You can access and edit them easily and frequently.



# I Z E

But remember:

- Digital files can degrade + be lost too!
- Make sure to have multiple copies in different locations (see Maximum Preservation 2 on digital preservation)
- You get what you pay for with transfer companies: higher quality/safety will cost more, especially decayed or dirty film.
- Save the original!

*Think of the children!*



Document your films and videos for future generations:

Include names, events, place names, addresses, who is filming, and more! Include facts and stories about people, places, traditions, rituals and any related memories.



Write it all down, save it as a digital text file, or record an audio file to capture memories during a screening ... or do all three!

Include your home movies in a Living Will, and consider donating to a library or archive.



## Further resources

For more information on preserving your home movies and finding a Home Movie Day near you, visit

[www.centerforhomemovies.org](http://www.centerforhomemovies.org)

To learn more about the DCPL Memory Lab Network and to find a Memory Lab near you, visit:

[www.dclibrary.org/labs/memorylab](http://www.dclibrary.org/labs/memorylab)

Tips by:

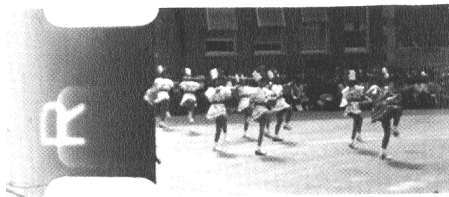
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Center for Home Movies

Design by:

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Special Collections + DC Punk Archive  
DC Public Library



Film Stills courtesy of the  
African American Home Movie Archive.  
Back cover - Siobhan's PopPops

